# CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

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Edited by
THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden
Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Øster Egesborg per Mern, Denmark

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## DENMARK

Joint State and Church Assistance to Developing Countries.

In a recent address the Danish Prime Minister, Mr. Viggo Kampmann, advocated a joint effort by the State and the foreign mission organizations of the Church with regard to assistance to the developing countries. The Prime Minister had been invited by the Danish Missionary Council to address a meeting in Copenhagen on "The Danish Church and Assistance to the Developing Countries". He began by saying that the State, in its deliberations as to the best way in which to render this assistance, had neglected to include the work of the Church and Foreign Missions in these deliberations. While studying these efforts in the course of preparing his lecture, the Prime Minister had realized the value of their experiences and that these experiences might be tapped and put into use by the State in drawing up programmes of assistance for the coming years. He found that State and Church might

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rofit from mutual advice and support. However, the State should not nterfere in the activities of the Church on the mission fields as he work here should continue on the present basis of voluntary contri- utions.

Ih the ensuing discussion Prime Minister Kampmann emphasized that, of course, there could be no question of State subsidies to Foreign Missions, but he would not find it unnatural for the State to give a and in support of institutional enterprises undertaken by Foreign Missions in the course of many years.

In a radio interview shortly after the Prime Minister said that negotiations about the form of such co-operation would be taken up with Danish Foreign Missions - and these negotiations have already begun.

Danish Training Centre for Young People from Developing Countries.

The Ford Foundation has given a 5-year grant of 250,000 Dollars towards a special training project, the main centre of which is to be situated in Denmark. Young people from the developing countries, especially selected by their respective Governments, are to receive a 3-year training qualifying them for posts of leadership in folk high schools and agricultural colleges in their home countries. The reason for placing the main centre in Denmark is the desire to emphasize the human aspect of the training as may be found in the rich traditions of the Danish Folk High School.

The students must have a good basic training from their own countries. The first year is to be spent in Denmark at a specially established institute. After that they may choose between a 12-months' stay at either a centre for cultivation of moorland soil, or on Scandinavian farms, or at a folk high school or an agricultural institution. The last year is to be spent at a training centre in the tropics, where the knowledge gained in Scandinavia may be modified according to conditions in their respective native countries.

The training project will begin on October 1st, this year with 20 students. Next year the number will be increased to 60.

Danish Foreign Mission Figures.

During last year the number of Danish missionaries in active service went down from 310 to 304, according to a New Year's survey by the Secretary General of the Danish Missionary Council, Rev. Erik Petersen. At the same time the budgets of the missionary societies affiliated to the Council have gone up from a total of 6 million to 6 1/2 million Crowns. The missionary societies under the Lutheran National Church employ altogether 258 missionaries and their budgets total 6,1 million Crowns. The situation is influenced by a shortage of missionaries. Thus the missionary societies belonging to the Lutheran National Church are looking for at least 37 new missionaries at the moment.

International Conference on Frontier Problems.

"The Frontiers in a World Made Peaceful" was the main theme of an international conference around New Year's which took place at the new Retreat Centre at Løgumkloster near the Danish-German frontier. 60 people from all over the world took part in the conference, which was arranged by the Retreat Centre in co-operation with the Evangelical Academy at Schleswig (Germany).

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International Conference on Frontier Problems.

"The Frontiers in a World Made Peaceful" was the main theme of an international conference around New Year's which took place at the new Retreat Centre at Jaegerhuset near the Danish-German frontier. 70 people from all over the world took part in the conference, which was arranged by the Retreat Centre in co-operation with the Evangelical Academy at Bad Segeberg (Germany).

## ıe Baptist Mission in Ruanda-Urundi Becomes Independent.

As from January 1st, 1961, the Baptist Church in Denmark has hand-
l over all its mission stations, schools, and other property on the
ission field in Ruanda-Urundi (Africa) to the local African congrega-
ions. The congregations are united in a society, governed by a Missio
ommittee of 15 members, 5 of whom are missionaries.

## ews in Brief:

The Danish Royal Couple has donated one million Danish Crowns
owards the erection of a new church at Thorshavn on the Pharoe Isles.
he money, being the surplus from the sale of a special coin in comme-
oration of the Silver Wedding of the King and the Queen, was placed
t the King's disposal for charity purposes.

For the first time since the re-introduction in Denmark of the
egree of Licentiate at the two Theological Faculties four years ago th
egree has been conferred on Rev. Erik Heinemeier, Rector of Store Brøn-
um. A Licentiate's degree is somewhat less exacting than a Doctor's
egree.

The President of the Danish Home Mission, a revivalist Movement
ithin the Danish Lutheran National Church, Rev. L. P. Jensen, Rural
ean, Graested, has died, 65 years old.

The most comprehensive history of hymns so far in Denmark, com-
iled over 25 years by the Rev. Anders Malling, Rector of Brøns, will
ow be published. The publishing will be extended over five years.

# FINLAND

## Thirteen New Orthodox Churches Since 1950.

Since 1950 13 new churches, 44 prayer halls, and vicarages and
ew cemeteries for 14 new congregations have been erected by the Ortho-
lox Church in Finland. The State has given a grant of 861 million
innish Marks towards the purpose. The Orthodox Church lost several
hurch buildings at the surrender of East Karelia to the Soviet Union,
t which time the Orthodox inhabitants were scattered all over the
ountry.

To mark the completion of the church restorations a special ser-
vice was held recently in Helsinki (Helsingfors) at which Archbishop
Paavali thanked all who had taken part in the work, and conferred the
Order of the Holy Lamb on a number of people - among others, on the
Minister of Education, Mr. Heikki Hosia.

## Establishment of Church Relief Fund.

A proposal by the Cathedral Chapter of Borgå (Porvoo) for the
establishment of a relief fund was recently approved in principle by
the Finnish Bishops' Conference, and a committee was set up to go into
the matter in more detail and to draw up the rules and scope of such
a foundation. The fund is to be used for immediate Church relief in
situations of emergency all over the world.

ative Moderator of the Ambokavango Church.

At a synod at Oniipa the African minister, Rev. Leonard Auala, was lected Moderator of the Ambokavango Church, the Church of the Finnish issionary Society on its mission field in South Africa. This is the irst time the Church has had a native leader, the office having pre- iously been occupied by Finnish missionaries.

lergymen and Employers Meet for Conference of Information.

Last month a conference of information for clergymen was arranged y the Central Association of Employers in Finland at its institute on he island of Drumsö. In the spring of 1960 a similar conference was rranged by the Central Association of Trade Unions at the Trade Union nstitute at Kiljava, the purpose of the two conferences being to pro- ride clergymen with an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with he labour organizations and their basis.

At the conference on the island of Drumsö lectures were delivered on the employers' federations and their activities, industrial democra- cy, labour market politics, social politics, industrial personnel po- litics, and on the subject of man and labour from a psychological point of view. A lecture by Professor Heikki Varis, Professor of Sociology, on"Man in To-Days Society" in which he strongly appealed to the Church and the individual Christians to accept responsibility for developments in the many different orbits of social life attracted particular in- terest.

Industrial School for Clergymen.

For the third time an industrial school for clergymen has been conducted at the Laymen's Institute at Järvenpää, this time attended by 10 ministers. The instruction began with a 3 weeks' course of lec- tures on labour market organizations and the labour movement. Then followed a 6 weeks' stay at different factories where the clergymen were employed as ordinary labourers. Finally the ministers met once more for a fortnight at the Institute where they might discuss their experiences and meet prominent trade union people and employers.

100,000 Finns in Sweden.

Bishop Martti Simojoki, Helsinki (Helsingfors), has been to Swe- den in order to visit the Finns living there and to negotiate about the pastoral care to them. About 100,000 Finns, some 46,000 of whom are Finnish citizens, have settled in Sweden. The Finnish Church does not contemplate establishing special Finnish congregations in Sweden, but would like to help her fellow-countrymen and -women to find their natural place within the framework of the Swedish Church. A number of Finnish church workers in Sweden are charged particularly with the care of the Finnish section of the Swedish Church, but 3 more such workers are needed.

Christian Folk High Schools Have Half of the Students.

The number of students at the Finnish folk high schools this winter is 5,287, 3,950 of whom attend ordinary folk high schools, and 1,347 receive advanced training at so-called institutes. 2,534 stu- dents, or roughly 48 %, attend Christian folk high schools.

## ...tive Moderator of the Ambekwuwa Uhrch.

At a synod at Oniise the African minister, Rev. Leonard Ayisi, was elected Moderator of the Ambekwuwa Church, the Church of the Pilgrim Missionary Society on its mission field in South Africa. This is the first time the Church has had a native leader, the office having previously been occupied by British missionaries.

## ...ergymen and Employers Meet for Conference on Information.

Last month a conference of interpretation for clergymen was arranged by the Central Association of Employers in Pindarn at the Institute on the island of Drumes. In this spring of 1950 a similar conference was arranged by the Central Association of Trade Unions at the Trade Union Institute at Kilpeva, the purpose of the two conferences being to provide clergymen with an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the labour organisations and their basis.

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## ...dustrial School for Clergymen.

For the third time an industrial school for clergymen has been conducted at the Laymen's Institute at Kerempaa, this time extended by 10 minutes. The instruction began with a 3 weeks' course of lectures on labour market organisations and the labour movement. These were followed a 6 weeks' stay at different factories where the clergymen were employed as ordinary labourers. Finally the ministers met once more for a fortnight at the Institute where they might discuss their experiences and meet prominent trade union people and employers.

## ...00,000 Finns in Sweden.

Bishop Martti Simojoki, Helsinki (Helsingfors), has been to Sweden in order to visit the Finns living there and to negotiate about the pastoral care to them. About 100,000 Finns, some 40,000 of whom are Finnish citizens, have settled in Sweden. The Finnish Church does not consequently have special Finnish Communities in Sweden, but would like to help her fellow-countrymen and women to find their natural place within the framework of the Swedish Church. A number of Finnish church workers in Sweden are charged particularly with the care of the Finnish section of the Swedish church, but 3 more such workers are needed.

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ews in Brief:

The Canon Law Committee set up b the Finnish Church Assembly has roposed that the number of delegates at the Synod be limited to a aximum of 100 instead of the present about 120. According to the roposal, 40 of the 100 delegates should be clergymen and 60 laymen.

The Enlarged Bishops' Conference in Finland has approved a propoal recommended by the Bishops' Conference to the effect that church egisters everywhere in the country should be substituted by card ndexes as in the Capital. In Finland the ministers of the Lutheran ational and the Orthodox Churches are responsible for the keeping of he national registers.

The Enlarged Bishops' Conference has accepted the resignation of rofessor Rafael Gyllenberg as member of the Ecclesiastical Board and ominated Rev. Edvin Stenwall, Rural Dean, as his successor until 1964.

## NORWAY

very Sunday More Than 700 Norwegian Churches Stand Closed.

Attention was aroused when Dr Per Lønning, D.D., some time ago in he Norwegian "Storting" (Parliament) pointed out the fact that every unday 700-800 churches in Norway remained closed. Formerly this was ecessary on account of the often great distances between the churches n the wide-spread parishes, but Dr Lønning felt that modern means of ransport were so good that the number of church services might well e considerably increased.

Mr. Helge Sivertsen, Minister of Church Affairs, promised to take o the matter with the Bishops and, possibly, with the Clergymen's ssociation.

In a statement in the "Vårt Land" Bishop Johannes Smemo, Oslo, ays that in a circular in 1956 to clergy and parish councils the ishops emphasized the desirability of conducting as many church serices as possible on Sundays and that any new efforts in this direction ould be noted with pleasure. The Bishop furthermore mentioned the conomic side of the question as the cost of heating and the payment f church servants must, of course, go up the more often services are onducted in the church. But he felt that this problem might be solved y the local municipalities. In several places in Norway Sunday serices during winter are conducted in the schools instead of in the hurches in order to save the high cost of heating.

o State Subsidies to Christian Secondary Schools and the Congregaional Institute.

By 73 votes to 59 the Norwegian "Storting" (Parliament) last onth rejected a motion brought in by the non-Socialist Parties for a tate grant of 75,000 Crowns towards a Christian secondary school in slo and 27,300 Crowns towards another secondary school in the Rogaland istrict. Both schools are entitled to hold local examinations and re known for their high standards of education, but the Labour Party id not feel, this year any more than last year, that private schools hould be subsidized by the State.

Another proposal by the non-Socialist Parties for a subsidy of 0,000 Crowns towards the family consultation service of the Congre- ational Institute was likewise turned down in the "Stortinget" by 3 votes to 55. The proposal was put forward in connection with an ppropriation of roughly one million Crowns for public health measures. he Labour Party did not feel inclined to grant State support to an nstitute offering religious advice in matters of family life. At he same time the Government majority rejected a proposal to include a lergyman in the teams in charge of the work at the Government family onsultation centres.

## orwegian Lutheran Mission Will Resign from Missionary Council If .....

The Norwegian Lutheran Mission, one of the biggest Norwegian mis- ionary societies, will resign from the Norwegian Missionary Council f the latter should decide to apply for consultative relationship ith the new Commission on Foreign Missions to be established at the ime of integration between the International Missionary Council and he World Council of Churches. Shortly before Christmas a unanimous esolution to this effect was carried by the Governing Body of the utheran Mission. The issue of a possible consultative relationship s to be settled at a meeting of the Norwegian Missionary Council on ebruary 17th, following upon the Council having in the autumn rejected y an overwhelming majority the idea of affiliation.

## "Aid to Refugees" Supports Foreign Mission Relief Measures in Hongkong.

The Norwegian Council for Aid to Refugees has granted 700,000 C wns to Norwegian missionary relief measures in Hongkong. Half a million C wns were presented to the tuberculosis sanatorium "Haven of Hope" and the remainder was distributed among other branches of the mission's relief work in Hongkong. This brings the contribution of the Norwegian nation in connection with the Refugee Year to 2,3 Crowns for the re- fugees in Hongkong.

## Free Medicine for Foreign Missions and Inter-Church Aid Organizations.

The Norwegian Mission Medical Service and the Norwegian Medical Depot have reached an agreement which will be of great consequence to medical missions and the Inter-Church Aid organizations. The agreement says that all drugs which are of good quality but which for some reason or other, are no longer marketable articles in Norway, will be handed over to the Mission Medical Sercie. Such medicine amounting to many tons of stuff, the agreement thus makes it possible to provide all Norwegian medical missionaries with what medicine they need free of charge - at least in the case of certain drugs. An equivalent amount of medicine will be placed at the disposal of the Inter-Church Aid Organization. The Mission Medical Service was established a few months ago in co-operation with the Norwegian Missionary Council.

## No Woman Pastor This Time.

Mrs. Ingrid Bjerkås, Graduate in Theology, was not nominated for any of the five vacant curacies in the Diocese of Hamarfor which she had applied. As mentioned in CN No. 60, she was expected by many to be chosen for one of these offices and, Bishop Schjelderup, Hamar, being willing to ordain women, she would thus have become the first woman pastor in the Norwegian Lutheran National Church. In a Press report Mrs. Bjerkås declares that she will continue to apply for vacant livings. Mrs. Bjerkås is 59 years of age.

reater Response and More Young People in Action.

The New Year's issue of the Christian daily paper in Oslo "Vårt and" contained a symposium of the impressions of a number of Free hurch leaders of the work during 1960. The replies were much alike. nly a few could report sporadic revivals, but all were agreed that he readiness to listen to the gospel was greater than before, and hat another common trait was the greater influx of young people in church and their becoming engaged in active service.

Bishop Støylen on the Basis of the World Council of Churches.

In an article on the basis of the World Council of Churches in the Northern ecumenical periodical "Kristen Enhetskap", Bishop Kåre Støylen Kristiansand, deals with, among other things, the criticism in Norway that "the Scriptures alone" have not been stated in the new draft for basis to be the foundation of all ecumenical intercourse. The Bishop writes:

"There is no reason to conceal the difficulties in inter-church relations. In the minds of many these difficulties stem from the vague formulation of the basis. It is well, therefore, that this has been more clearly stated. But we must not expect it to offer any guarantees with regard to borderline issues when the actual aim is to point to the centre. A basis safeguarding against any liberal theological influence in inter-church conversations cannot be obtained by just adding: "The Scriptures alone must be the basis". We should also have to have an authority to determine the interpretation of this. The World Council of Churches does not profess to be such an authority. It cannot and will not be a "super-church", as would be the consequence. In our Lutheran Church we possess, however, in our own Confession the authority enabling us to interpret the conception of Holy Scripture as guiding principle. We must adhere to the word of God, pure and unambiguous, as handed down to us in Holy Scripture and testified to by our Church in the Confession. We must cleave to this testimony and, above all, strongly bring it to bear upon the ecumenical work of to-day."

News in Brief:

- The draft for a new text-book to be used in the Norwegian Lutheran National Church may be expected to be published shortly. The draft has been worked out by a committee, set up in 1946 by the Ministry of Church Affairs.

- The Diocesan Council of Nidaros in co-operation with the Norwegian Congregational Institute is arranging a Kirchentag at Trondheim (Nidaros) from 27th - 31st July, at which the following topics will be dealt with in lectures and study groups: "The Responsibility of the Church for the Spiritual and Material Distress in the World", "The Church in a Society of a New Structure" and "The Responsibility of the Individual Congregation in these Matters".

- There have been no new applicants for 5 vacant benefices recently in North Norway.

## SWEDEN

### rchbishop and the "Lines of Action" Advocated by the "Confessional ront".

In his reply to the Swedish Parliamentary Commissioner for the udiciary and the Civil Administration Archbishop Dr. Gunnar Hultgren issociates himself from certain "Lines of Action" published by the Confessional Front" immediately after the admission of the first omen pastors. At the time the Parliamentary Commissioner took up or investigation the legitimacy of the "Lines of Action" and asked he Archbishop, on his having consulted with the other Bishops, to eply to three definite questions. The first one was whether a rector or reasons of conscience may refuse to open the parish church for urial- or marriage-service which somebody wants to be conducted by certain woman minister, e.g. a relative. To this the Archbishop nswers no. The next question dealt with the entering in church re- isters of church functions conducted by women ministers. Here the rchbishop expresses the opinion that it cannot - as presumed in the Lines of Action" - be left to the discretion of the individual minister o decide whether Holy Communion services, baptisms and confirmation hall be entered in church registers or not. Also functions conducted y women ministers most be entered in church registers. And finally, he "Lines of Action" advocated that lay church servants, opposed to omen pastors, should refuse to assist at church functions performed y such pastors. The Archbishop cannot approve of this, either, but uggests that such church servants find someone else, duly recognized y the Church Council, to replace them in such cases.

The Archbishop's reply is expressly stated not to have been given n behalf of all the Bishops, but that, before replying, the Archbishop sked them about their views.

### Matrimonial Legislation Must be Amended!

In a leader the weekly paper published by the "Confessional Front" "Svensk Pastoraltidskrift" appeals to the Bishops to demand an mendment of the Swedish matrimonial legislation so that ministers re no longer obliged to marry divorced persons. The reason for this is the sentence passed on a clergyman who, as mentioned in the last umber of CN, had refused to marry a couple because one of them had een divorced.

The paper advocates that the case be carried to the highest uthority and that, should the clergyman not be acquitted, an energetic ffort be made for having the law amended. Otherwise a great number f similar cases may be expected as there are hundreds of instances very year, according to the paper, of clergymen refusing to re-marry ivorced people.

### The Helander-Case to be Reopened?

Bishop Dick Helander may possibly have his case reopened shortly. A few years ago he was sentenced to dismissal from his office on the ccusation of having written and distributed libellous letters about he other candidates at the episcopal election in 1953. He himself as throughout maintained that he is innocent.

Bishop Helander has appealed to the Supreme Court to have his case reopened, but so far there has been no decision in the matter. The Public Prosecutor has requested that a clergyman, said to know about the origin of the anonymous letters, be summoned to give evidence, which the minister in question refuses to do on the plea that his knowledge derives from private confession. Thereupon the Public Prosecutor has asked the Supreme Court for a ruling as to whether a clergyman, pleading professional secrecy as imposed on clergymen in the Church Cannon of 1689, may refuse giving evidence in a case like this.

Annual Christian "Youth Parliament".

The Swedish Christian Youth Council, an ecumenical organ of co-operation of the Christian youth organizations, has adopted new rules saying, among other things, that the Board shall consist of 40 members who shall meet once a year; thus a "parliament of the Christian youth organizations" will be created. The first "session" will take place in April this year.

News in Brief:

- This year the collection taken on Boxing Day by the Swedish Covenant Church for foreign missions amounted to more than 2 1/4 million Swedish Crowns. This is the biggest regular voluntary collection in Sweden.

- A new kind of devotional programme will be launched on the Swedish television in the spring. The students' minister at Uppsala will be asked questions connected with a topical Scripture passage by half a dozen young people.

- The Hungarian refugee congregations in Scandinavia - Lutheran as well as Reformed - have agreed jointly to buy a house in Sweden to be used as a congregational centre for the Hungarians. In summer there will be conferences and in winter the house will be used as a rest- and convalescent home for elderly and infirm refugees. The Swedish Church has promised to pay the main part of the prize of the building which is situated in the vicinity of Gothenburg.